

For Immediate Release:
October 31, 2003

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HAVA Coordinator
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Bismarck, ND – Secretary of State Al Jaeger announced today that his office has released a request seeking proposals from vendors for new voting systems that will meet the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

For the past seven weeks, a committee appointed by Jaeger has been researching and developing the proposal request. It is another major phase in the state becoming compliant with the HAVA election reform requirements, which must be implemented in all of the state's polling locations no later than January 1, 2006.

The request for proposals involves the purchase of voting devices capable of allowing second chance voting and unassisted voter access, local and statewide tabulating software programs, and training for election officials and poll workers.

Members of the committee drafting the request for proposals included county auditors as well as advocates for individuals with disabilities. Their research included a vendor fair held in Bismarck on October 8, where committee members, county election officials, and members of the public had the opportunity to vote on several different voting devices.

Both the second chance and unassisted access voting devices will be first deployed for the June 2004 election in Williams and Grand Forks Counties. They will be pilot counties for the unassisted access voting devices before these systems are fully deployed statewide. According to a preliminary survey, it is expected that half of the state's polling locations will use the second chance voting devices in 2004.

The proposals submitted by vendors will be opened on December 1. Then, an evaluation committee appointed by Jaeger will analyze, score, and make their recommendations by December 22 for the awarding of a contract.

To receive a copy of the request for proposals, contact the state's HAVA Coordinator, Danette Odenbach, at 328-7318. A copy is also available on the state's official HAVA website at www.discovernd.com/hava.

NOTE TO EDITOR: For your reference, a copy of the letter authorizing the release of the RFP, including the names of the committee members, is on the following page.

October 30, 2003

According to the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the chief election official for each state is charged with the responsibility of upgrading election equipment and improving election administration to the benefit of all citizens within the state's jurisdiction.

Therefore, as the state's chief election official and according to the state's HAVA plan, I hereby authorize the release and distribution on October 31, 2003, of North Dakota's Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Voting System Upgrade and Improvement.

Official distribution of the RFP, coordinated between the Secretary of State's office and the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo), is authorized via the United States Postal Service (USPS), and will be alternatively available for review and downloading from the state's official HAVA website at www.discovernd.com/hava.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to the Voting System Procurement (VSP) Committee and its members listed below for their contributions and commitment of time in the development of the RFP. For the benefit of the citizens of North Dakota, they have recognized, understood, and applied the goals of HAVA in providing access to the polls for all voters and for conducting accurate and efficient elections.

Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

Mike Montplaisir, Auditor, Cass County
Kevin Glatt, Auditor, Burleigh County
Sherry Hosford, Auditor, Sargent County
Dave Senger, Auditor, Ward County
Jack Davidson, Auditor, Nelson County
Dawn Roppel, Auditor, Cavalier County
Janell Rudel, Auditor, Wells County
Karin Fursather, Auditor, Pierce County
Allan Peterson, North Dakota Association of the Blind
Corinne Hofmann, Protection and Advocacy
Jim Moench, North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium
Judi Lee, Interagency Program for Assistive Technology
Sherry Neas, Procurement Office, State of North Dakota
Steve Kelsch, Information Technology, North Dakota Association of Counties
Bonnie Amble, Executive Assistant, North Dakota Association of Counties
Terry Traynor, Assistant Director, North Dakota Association of Counties
Danette Odenbach, HAVA Coordinator, North Dakota Association of Counties
Shawn Teeters, Consultant, MAXIM, Inc.
John Rose, Consultant, MAXIM, Inc.

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